

Contributions.

THE CONFERENCE AS I SAW IT.

Our National gathering of eighteen hundred and ninety-five, is among things of the past, and it is now in order, to give expression, to the impressions made while attending the gathering.

In contrast, with the former gatherings attended, before the separation and organization of the Brethren church, it offered much for reflection.

The regulation costume of the sixties and the seventies was not to be seen among the delegates with, I believe one honorable exception.

Now simply as a matter of choice, a *right, God given*. Another very impressive feature of the meeting was that it was composed of the brainiest and most business element of the church. Men and women able to grapple with all the intricate problems that might arise. Spiritual men having no purpose to serve but the best interests of the church and the honor and glory of God.

The proposition, asking for some specific rule, for the application of the Gospel law, our only rule of faith and practice was warmly discussed, and some little friction was apparent, but the strong current of love, which prevailed in the meeting triumphed, and the whole matter was referred to a Committee of preachers and laymen to formulate, and to report at next Conference and then to be referred to the churches for ratification.

The great interest manifest in the subordinate departments of work in the church was commendable. The S. S. C. E. from its report has exceeded the expectations of its most active and enthusiastic workers.

May God bless those dear sisters who are so earnest and self-sacrificing for the cause of Christ and the growth of our beloved Zion.

The society of the K. Children was reported officially and at length by its president and unanimously adopted, after much had been elected. Very edifying to one somewhat unacquainted with its workings.

Some little friction exists among the workers, but upon the whole all passed off unusually smooth and all appeared to enjoy the sessions from the beginning to the close. These meetings are inspiring and we believe every minister of the Brethren church in attendance will go home to his work filled with new inspiration for his work.

New methods having been concerned, for a more practical and effective presen-

tation of the truth to those entrusted to his charge.

May God's blessing attend all that was done at this Conference, and if under the providence of God we meet a year hence may greater and glorious work be reported for the Master.

A. J. HIXON.

PEACE.

J. J. VANDERREE.

What is peace, and what do we understand by its meaning? Webster defines peace as follows: Quiet, repose, freedom from war or disturbance, and now then what is a peacemaker? It is any one who makes peace by reconciling parties at variance. From a worldly point of view we need not ask as to whether or not there are any parties at variance for beside the word of God teaching us that there shall be wars and rumors of wars, and that variances of different natures shall exist. We know by actual observation, that is the most of us do, that there are differences between man and man as well as between nation and nation. This seems to be the natural results of men, and countries doing business with each other, but enough of this. It is my intention to write a few words about that peace which passeth all understanding.

It is a fact recorded in that holy book of God, that, when Christ left this earth after finishing his unison of laying and completing the plan of salvation, that he left *his* peace with his followers. *My peace I leave with you.* Not as the world but only as a pure, unspotted, divine being as he was could leave it. And I want to say right here, that there was no sham, nor make believe, nor any feignedness, about this peace which our Saviour left with his people. It was, and is now as much so as ever, his command for his people to be at peace among themselves, and in case that any wordy wars or disturbances do exist or occur, he says in his word to those who will and do act to adjust those differences which occur among his people that they are blessed, for blessed are the peace-makers, but brethren and sisters what about the peace-breakers? It is said that there remaineth a rest for the people of God, but how can any one expect to enter into that rest which God has promised to his people, unless they are at peace with themselves, with their families, with their neighbors, with their brethren and sisters and with their God. For, listen, as much as lieth within you live peaceably with all men.

King David was a peaceable man for we hear him say in one of his Psalms, "When I am for peace they are for war."

And so it is with God's people to-day, when some are for peace others again are for war. And so in many cases a disturbance arises and is kept up, but not by a peace-maker. A little incident was told me by a minister well known, not long ago, that in a measure will illustrate how some people look upon this peace at a council meeting in a church where quiet, and peace reigned and where not much business came up before the body after transacting what business there was to do. Some one made a motion to adjourn, at this moment an old brother jumped up and said, brethren, "we have hardly done anything yet at this meeting, and I am afraid that there is *too much peace* among us." Another case, and that of a brother who informed me that he had ought against me, and on me telling him before witnesses that I was ready to settle just then, anything and everything that he might have against me.

He said no I have it recorded against you and at some future time you will hear from me, but I said, brother I may die before you come or get ready; or, I says to him you may die, upon which he remarked, Oh well the charge is not so great but what I can forgive you in case either of us die. But as we are both alive yet and he is not ready for settlement the case on his book still stands against me. This kind of work is not the work that belongeth to the peace-maker, far from it.

It is a fact the best of God's people are liable at sometime or another to let Satan slip in and get in between them and some one else and set them at variance, but I would like to see the two persons that are in that kind of a fix that could not, if they would, with the help of God remove that old adversary out of the way and come together, and reason over matters of difference instead of allowing him to stand there as a dark object, so dark that they cannot see each other, neither grasp each others hand with a hearty grasp and so make peace.

It does seem to me that if each church had a peace-maker committee of good sensible God fearing people appointed, whose duty it would be to see that peace is made by parties refusing or neglecting to make peace. It would be a noble thing, and much hard feeling and talk could be and would be averted. And now in conclusion let me say that let us make for peace while we are here and able to make peace, so that we may be found blameless and be accounted worthy to stand before him when he shall appear. May God help us to be found among the peace-makers for they shall be blessed.

Cornell, Ill. Sept. 5.